new hydrocarbon finds were made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private/joint venture companies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura.

(b) The estimated balance recoverable oil and gas reserves in the country as on 1.4.2004 are 1658.33 Million Metric Tonnes(MMT). Reserve estimation for 2004-05 is under finalisation.

(c) Based on present day geological knowledge and assessment of prospectivity, the Himalayan foot-hills do have the possibility of finding hydrocarbons, however, no commercial strike has so far been made in this region.

**Strike by petroleum dealers**

4285. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of All India Petroleum Dealers called for closure of all petrol pumps in the country from midnight of April 17 to Midnight of April 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major demands of the petroleum dealers; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) called for a closure of all petrol pumps in the country from midnight of 17 April, 2005 to midnight of 18 April, 2005. However, during this period all company owned company operated (COCOs) and Jubilee retail outlets were in operation to meet customer demand.

The major demands raised by FAIPT include increases in dealer commissions and allowances, uniform tax rates on petrol and diesel throughout the country and linking of commissions to the retail prices of the products.

(d) The issues raised by FAIPT are under consideration of the Government.

**Import of crude from Saudi Arabia**

4286. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabian Kingdom has assured our Government that it will meet India's crude oil demands, however large, in future; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Saudi Arabia has assured supply of any additional requirement of crude oil to India. As India's import of crude oil is likely to double over the next twenty years, import from Saudi Arabia might also increase commensurately.

**Tamper proof seal for LPG cylinders**

4287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the woes of the people due to large scale pilferage of LPG before the delivery of LPG cylinder to the customer in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon;

(c) whether the present plastic seals are not tamper proof and that leads to pilferage of LPG;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard, State-wise and the steps being taken to fix tamper proof seals on the LPG cylinders; and

(e) what is the accountability of oil companies in ensuring tamper proof LPG cylinder particularly when they demand price increase often?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 14 established complaints of pilferage of LPG against their LPG distributors during 2004-05. The State-wise details are as under:—

| Name of State | Number of Complaints |
|---|---|
| Delhi | 3 |
| Gujarat | 2 |
| Rajasthan | 4 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3 |
| Punjab | 2 |

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment